

National Governors Association
and Governor Doyle's Wisconsin Summit

Building Bridges to Family Economic Success
Conference Overview

May 4, 2009 from 9:00 to 4:30

May 5, 2009 from 8:30 to 4:30

Italian Community Center
631 East Chicago Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



What

Wisconsin was one of the ten states selected by the National Governors Association to host a summit on poverty and economic opportunity. Wisconsin's Summit is entitled Building Bridges to Family Economic Success. In addition to support from NGA, we are grateful for the support of other organizations and foundations: Community Advocates of Milwaukee (hosting sponsor); Milwaukee Social Development Commission, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Children's Trust Fund (program sponsors); and the Wisconsin Council of Churches (supporting organization). This Summit will focus on identifying priority strategies to reduce poverty and increase economic opportunity.

On behalf of Governor Doyle, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is coordinating the 2009 Building Bridges Summit. This event will bring together business leaders, non-profit agencies, policy makers, law enforcement, education professionals, the faith community, tribal leaders, philanthropy and consumers of services to identify and prioritize strategies to improve the economic well being of Wisconsin families. We all have a role to play in reducing poverty and increasing economic opportunity.

Confirmed speakers include [Governor Jim Doyle](#), [Angela Glover Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer of Policy Link](#) and [Mark Greenberg, Ph.D. Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress](#). Ms. Glover Blackwell is a former Senior Vice President at the Rockefeller Foundation and a national leader on social justice and equity who has focused time and energy on rebuilding communities. Dr. Greenberg served as the Executive Director of American Progress' Task Force on Poverty where he worked closely with Ms. Glover Blackwell. The Task Force's report "From Poverty to Prosperity: A National Strategy for Cutting Poverty in Half," was issued in 2007. Prior to joining American Progress, Dr. Greenberg was the director of policy for the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP).

Why

Wisconsin families are struggling to make ends meet in a tough economy. Poverty and economic hardship can result in long-term social and economic costs for children, families, communities and states and the economy at large. Poverty has large costs for states and the nation, with childhood poverty estimated to cost the U.S. economy approximately \$500 billion annually. Children who grow up poor may have cognitive impairments and are likely to earn less as adults, complete fewer years of formal education, and face significant health issues.

We must find ways to deal with intergenerational poverty and situational poverty as well as the threat of poverty and income destabilization as the economic situation in our state may continue to be challenging. We recognize that families fall along a continuum in our state, from those who are struggling to make ends meet, those who are stable but perhaps "one paycheck away" from slipping backwards, and those who are sufficient and able to meet their family's needs. The framework for this conference is that we keep families progressing towards sufficiency and that we avoid families slipping backwards.